

Remarks

Claims 1-30 are at issue. Claims 1-7 & 9-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barr et al (5,873,076). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barr et al (5,873,076) in view of Barrett et al (6,490,584). Claims 11 & 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over August et al (6,647,383). Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over August et al (6,647,383) in view of Brown et al (6,665,666). Claims 15-18 & 20-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over August et al (6,647,383) in view of Barr et al (5,873,076).


The applicants have amended the independent claims under protest to add definitions that are clear in the specification and in the art of computer science. The applicants are allowed to be their own lexicographer and are not required by the law to put the definition of terms of art into the claims.

The application has been placed in condition for allowance, prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

(Direen)

By

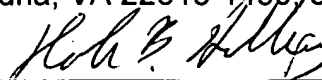


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I hereby certify that an Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

6/21/04

Date



Signature (Dale B. Halling)